

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 20, 2001. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, to facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, the specification has been reviewed and revised in to make a number of minor clarifying and other editorial amendments.

To further facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, original claims 4 and 7 have been cancelled with the remaining claims renumbered accordingly and revised. Each of the revised claims has been carefully drafted to ensure compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

On pages 4-5 of the Office Action, original claims 1, 2-7, and 8-10 are rejected as follows:

Claims 1, 8, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Lohati et al. (Pat. No. 4,577,625); and

Claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Lohati et. al.

It is submitted that present invention, as embodied by the newly presented claims, now clearly patentably distinguishes over the applied prior art references for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a massage and tactile stimulation device that affects deep tissues and allows for point specific pressure. The prominent projections of

sizes. As shown in Figs. 1,2, and 6 the predetermined prominent projections are stationary and located at parts of hand allowing for individual manipulation of projections, if desired. The present invention may be used for accupressure, the release of trigger points (tight muscle bands), or deep tissue massage. Accordingly, a plurality of massaging instrumentalities arranged in a pattern or indiscriminately located on a massaging device primarily affects cutaneous tissues. Therefore, in accordance with the present invention, a massage and tactile stimulation device is structured specifically for affecting deeper tissues.

Lohati discloses a rotating ball massager having a plurality of rotating ball assemblies (Fig. 1) or a rotating circular bead assembly made of resilient rubber. This is in contrast to the present invention which utilizes a stationary mounting.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact the inventor by telephone promptly to resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna T. Ongwela

Deanna Thuman Ongwela
410.880.0863

A